

Fair, continued cold to-night and Saturday and probably Sunday.

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VENEZUELA DISPUTE LIKELY TO GO BEFORE THE HAGUE TRIBUNAL

President Roosevelt Strongly Urged by Advisers Not to Take Up the Burdens of Sole Arbitrator.

Monroe Doctrine Not in Danger So Long as Allies Make No Attempt to Hold Property Indefinitely.

There is a greater probability today than at any time recently, according to a prominent official, that the Venezuelan case will eventually go to The Hague tribunal for settlement. There are reasons of a diplomatic nature for this development of the situation, as well as strong arguments on the part of certain of the President's advisers.

Some of the latter, outside the Cabinet circle, have been much opposed to the President taking up the burdens of sole arbitrator, and today's view is that he will make a further and stronger effort to have the allies accept The Hague tribunal.

The possibility remains that the foreign powers interested will insist on the President acting, but in that case wider latitude to his movements would have to be allowed, it is believed.

Cabinet in Session.
Notwithstanding the general holiday air existing everywhere, the Cabinet met at the White House offices as usual, and devoted its session in a large measure to the Venezuelan situation. All the members were present except Secretary Root, who has not returned from New York.

Senator Cullom of Illinois, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, saw the President for twenty minutes. The Senator does not believe the situation has reached any serious stage, but has confidence in the ultimate success of the State Department in arranging a settlement satisfactory to all interests.

"The Monroe Doctrine is not threatened," said Senator Cullom, "so long as the allies do not attempt to occupy any territory and hold it indefinitely."

Wherein Danger Lies.
"What would you call indefinitely?" the Times representative asked.

"Ah, that's where the danger lies," he responded. "In our individual lives, a few months is often considered most 'indefinitely.' In the lives of nations, as these diplomats may assert, a decade or a score of years is only 'indefinitely.'"

Preliminary Protocol.
After the Cabinet meeting the foregoing statements were confirmed and it was intimated in addition that the negotiation of a preliminary protocol fixing the terms upon which arbitration would be agreed to had been initiated. It may therefore be accepted as certain, barring the appearance of unlooked-for obstacles, that the Venezuelan controversy will be referred to The Hague tribunal.

Pending the conclusion of the preliminary protocol, this Government declines to make public any of the conditions precedent to arbitration which have been imposed by the European allies. The present plan contemplates two protocols.

The first will be of the preliminary character mentioned. It will provide for the fulfillment by Venezuela of certain conditions—which are probably an apology to Germany for the attack on her legation in Caracas, and the other matters within the ability of Venezuela to concede.

Upon Venezuela's compliance with these conditions the blockade will be suspended.

(Continued on Ninth Page.)

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The cold wave continues in the Slope region, central valleys, and upper lake region, and has extended through the Middle, South Atlantic, and Gulf States. The line of zero temperature extends into central Illinois and northwest Missouri, while the minimum reading reported was 36 degrees below zero in Manitoba. The line of freezing temperature reached the middle Gulf coast, and frosts again occurred over northern Florida.

It will be colder tonight in New York and along the lower lakes, continuing cold Saturday and Sunday. It will also continue cold for the next two or three days from the Ohio Valley eastward and southward, and the line of freezing temperature tonight will extend into extreme northern Florida.

The weather will be generally fair, except along the eastern lower lakes, where light snow will probably continue. On the middle Atlantic coast winds will be fresh to brisk northwesterly. Steamers departing today for European ports will have high northwesterly winds and snow from the New England coast northward, and fresh to brisk northwesterly winds on the middle Atlantic coast.

TEMPERATURE.
9 a. m. 21
12 m. 22
1 p. m. 23

THE SUN.
Sun sets today, 4:45 p. m.
Sun rises tomorrow, 7:18 a. m.

TIDE TABLE.
High tide today, 6:05 p. m.
High tide tomorrow, 6:15 p. m.
Low tide tomorrow, 12:45 p. m.

MAY HAVE AIDED THE VENEZUELAN REBELS

Believed That Germany Convinced at Filibustering.

IMPORTANT PHASE OF DETAIL

United States Would Be Constrained By Circumstances to Establish a Counter Blockade.

One of the most important phases of the Venezuelan situation, and which is now engaging the anxious attention of the President, is the aid given by the allies to the revolutionists. If the fact can be proved this country is bound to enter a protest and to back that protest by force if necessary.

The United States may be constrained by circumstances to establish the anomaly of a counter blockade as well as to enter a protest. Advice has been received from Minister Bowen regarding the landing of arms and ammunition for the revolutionists at Coro and elsewhere, but at the State Department it was said this morning that the dispatches must be laid before President Roosevelt before they could be given out for publication.

Allow Filibustering.

In spite of this official secrecy, it is known that advice elsewhere received in this city says that the Germans conducting the blockade are convinced if not actually assisting in this filibustering. Meanwhile, a Caracas dispatch says positively that General Matos has assured Germany that if he is successful in overthrowing Castro the new administration will grant and pay—all of that country's claims.

It is believed that it is the consideration of this affair which is now delaying the presentation to the powers of President Roosevelt's formal reply to their arbitration proposal. To accept the responsibility when the United States has been grievously wronged would be to place the arbitrator in a most embarrassing position, one from which he could hardly extricate himself with honor to this country.

Answer May Be Delayed.

Consequently, several days may elapse before the answer is sent to London and Berlin. Further information will be received from Minister Bowen and the United States consuls in Venezuela, and if it should prove that a violation of the Monroe Doctrine has occurred the President will then most positively decline the position of arbitrator.

The question of blockading ports in Venezuela left open by Germany, Great Britain, and Italy for the entrance of munitions of war would follow.

DR. SALMON RETURNS TO RESUME HIS DUTIES

Thinks Foot-and-Mouth Disease Will Not Extend to Western Herds.

Dr. D. E. Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry of the Department of Agriculture, who has charge of the work of exterminating the foot-and-mouth disease among cattle in the New England States, will leave Washington this afternoon for Boston, to resume personally direction of the task assigned him.

Dr. Salmon said today that reports he had received showed that the extermination of diseased cattle was progressing steadily. No reports have been received that would indicate the spread of the disease in Western herds.

SAXONY FUGITIVES TALK OF COMING TO AMERICA

Archduke Leopold Writes That Four Lovers Will Emigrate.

VIENNA, Dec. 26.—Archduke Leopold Ferdinand, who went away with his sister, the Crown Princess of Saxony, when she eloped with a French instructor, has written to a friend in Salzburg that all four lovers intend to emigrate to America to escape pursuit, annoyance, and public curiosity.

That is the only country, the prince declares, where it is really possible to start life anew.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FOR POPE

ROME, Dec. 26.—His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, received thousands of Christmas felicitations yesterday from all over the world. There were no less than 655 telegrams received from America.

D. G. REED SUCCEEDS CABLE

ON ROCK ISLAND BOARD

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—It is officially announced that at his earnest solicitation R. R. Cable has been relieved as chairman of the board of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway. D. G. Reid has been elected to succeed Mr. Cable.

"BRIGHT AND ENTERTAINING."

OFFICE OF THE
ENGINEER COMMISSIONER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

I have been a reader of THE WASHINGTON TIMES ever since I have been in Washington, and have been much impressed by the manner in which it presents the news of the day, particularly that relating to affairs of the District. The new afternoon edition is especially bright and entertaining. I congratulate THE TIMES and wish it success.

John Biddle

Major, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.
Engineer Commissioner, Dist. of Col.

POISON EATERS ARE KEPT IN THE DARK

Do Not Know When Borax Is Administered.

EFFECT OF "FAKE" STORIES

Physicians Fear That They Will Prove Detrimental to American Trade.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture in charge of the food experiments which are being tried on a class of twelve young men to determine what injurious effects, if any, are produced by borax preservatives, view with amusement reports that have been published within the past week about the tests. With the amusement there is also a trace of annoyance, lest the reports may be taken seriously and detract from the effect of the investigation. The fear is also expressed that the somewhat picturesque stories printed may be sent to Europe, particularly Germany, where they might prove detrimental to American trade.

In view of the erroneous impressions conveyed by several reports published within the past three days, Dr. Willard D. Bigelow, of the food laboratory, who is in immediate charge of the class of young men, said today that the statement that the six men who are eating at the "borax table," as it is called, were losing weight, was without foundation. "No one," said Dr. Bigelow, "not even the young men themselves, know or can know whether they are losing or gaining. In fact, there is no one in the entire department who can make such an assertion, with the exception of Dr. Wiley or myself. Such results, if any, are not to be made public until the tests are completed."

"The work is of such a nature that no one can say in any one day just what effect the food has produced. Six chemists of the highest skill are employed constantly in analyzing the food eaten and the effects as shown upon the systems of the young men. None of these chemists knows what the results obtained by the others are, and consequently is unable to make any statement concerning them. These analyses are collected and sent to different clerks for tabulation, so that even the clerks are in the dark."

"As to statements by the young men themselves, they do not know whether there is any borax in their food or not, and have not been able to taste it or notice any changes in their physical condition."

"One evening while waiting for dinner recently, several of the young men proceeded to 'stuff' a representative of a newspaper who happened to be in the room, not thinking that he would take them seriously. He evidently 'swallowed' nearly all they told him."

"We do not mind the fun that is being poked at us, so long as it does not have any harmful effect or tend to put us in a bad light before the European nations. The German health board has declared that the presence of borax in American foods was detrimental to the public health. On the other hand, several of the most highly skilled German scientists have decided exactly opposite, and say emphatically that borax used as a preservative is not injurious to the human system."

FAVORS A SYSTEM OF SUBWAYS FOR CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Bion J. Arnold, the electrical expert, has given out an abstract of the recommendations he will make to the local transportation committee of the city council. Arnold was commissioned to provide a plan for the entire revision of Chicago's traction system.

In brief, Arnold believes that Chicago's greatest needs are a system of subways in the downtown district and the substitution of electric cars for the cable cars.

Added to these recommendations is a plan for a unification of the street car systems of Chicago, and if this is not possible, an arrangement between them, whereby "one city, one fare," shall be the rule.

LEPERS DISCOVERED ON THE ISLAND OF GUAM

Governor Schroeder Orders Their Segregation.

SUBMITS ANNUAL REPORT

Advices Establishment of Experimental Station by the Agricultural Department.

Capt. Seaton Schroeder, U. S. N., naval governor of the Island of Guam, has just submitted to the Navy Department his annual report for the last fiscal year. He says that the value of exports and of imports through the custom house have been, respectively, \$35,349.33 and \$55,165.53.

The imports do not include supplies for the naval station, brought there on the navy or army transports. The exports consist almost entirely of money (Mexican dollars). Not a pound of copra was exported, and neither cocoa nor coffee was produced in sufficient quantities to meet the requirements of the home market.

Experimental Station.

Captain Schroeder says that it would be a great boon if the Department of Agriculture would establish an experimental station in Guam.

The census of the Island of Guam, taken in the autumn of 1901, showed a total population of 9,676, which does not include the Americans in the Government service now stationed on the island. Of persons above the age of seven years, about 54 per cent are illiterate. Captain Schroeder's report is, in part, as follows:

"In February I received the painful report of the discovery of four lepers, living in the midst of a friendly community, where they had been harbored in well-intentioned but ill-advised concealment. A careful search was at once inaugurated, with the result that several more were soon located and others have come in since."

"I at once decided to segregate them, and after examining a number of more or less suitable locations began the establishment of a colony on the shore of Tumon Bay, in the northwest part of the island. This site, while sufficiently distant from any village for safety to the latter, is within practicable reach from Asana by a fairly good road. It is a very pretty spot and healthy, fronting upon a nice, clean beach, and while exposed to these places are to the winds of typhoons, it is practically secure from destruction by their tidal waves, because of being on the western coast."

BRAKEMAN, CORNERED, TURNS AND SLAYS BEAR

Pennsylvania Employee Kills Bruin With a Coupling Pin.

ALTOONA, Pa., Dec. 26.—While George Anderson was walking back to flag any trains that might be following the one he was with, on the South Fork Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad near Scap Level, he heard some one walking along behind him.

Thinking it was a tramp, who was about to hold him up, he turned suddenly to find himself confronted by a black bear walking on its hind legs and with its paws outstretched to grab him. Desperate from fright, he brought his brake pin into play, knocking bruin down. He then pounded the prostrate brute into a state of coma, after which he cut its throat.

Summoning the other members of the crew, he carried the carcass to the train and brought it to Altoona. The bear weighed 150 pounds.

TUG EXPLODES ON TRIAL

AND SIX OF CREW DROWN

GREENOCK, Scotland, Dec. 26.—At the trial trip of a steam tug today the boilers burst, blowing out the side of the vessel. Most of the tug's crew was blown overboard. Six men were drowned. The others were saved.

MINISTERS DISCUSS THE DIVORCE QUESTION

No Concerted Action Against Divorced Persons.

INQUIRY IS ALWAYS MADE

Easy, However, to Veil Matters Connected With Past Life—An Interesting Symposium.

Inquiry among members of the Washington clergy fails to reveal any pronounced opposition to remarriage of divorced persons, and entirely refutes the statement that at a conference of the ministers the question was discussed with the view of taking a stand against "grass" widows or widowers. Prominent ministers of four denominations were seen and each said he would not be bound by any agreement on matters of such serious moment as the performance of the marriage ceremony.

It was developed by the investigation, however, that the custom of making diligent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the granting of divorces prevails among the ministers, and many fees are allowed to go to justices of the peace because of the unsatisfactory character of the answers given by the applicants. More than that, several ministers recited cases where they have paused in the middle of the wedding service and put questions of the most searching kind to the groom or bride, or both, and in some instances have refused to proceed.

Easy to Prevaricate.

Such cases, however, are rare, for the average person is ready with information touching upon his or her past, and those who have anything to conceal are not prohibited from telling falsehoods to hide skeletons. No oath can be exacted by the officiating clergyman to insure the truth.

The attitude of most of the ministers on the question of remarriage of divorcees was best expressed by Dr. Wallace Radcliffe, of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, who said the only wise plan for a clergyman was to act upon his own judgment and do that which appears right to him. He said that he believed it his duty to make an investigation into every license coming to him, and, so far as possible, see that everything was in harmony with the laws of the District as well as that higher law—the word of God.

The discussion of the question of remarriage of divorcees was brought about by the publication of the experience of a young couple from Virginia, who sought to be married on Christmas day. The young man called upon Dr. A. W. Pitzer, who, upon learning that the bride-to-be had been divorced by a former husband who is still living, declined to perform the ceremony. The young man then visited Dr. W. M. Ferguson with a like result. A justice received a generous fee an hour later.

Dr. Radcliffe said that the case in question was not offered to him and he did not know what he would have done under the circumstances, but believed that he reasons which prompted his fellow-clergymen would have had the same effect upon him.

No Fixed Rule.

"But," he said, "no rule can be laid down on this subject. For instance, our church recognizes divorces granted on the ground of desertion, and while a divorce on that ground cannot be obtained under the laws of the District, I must say that I consider the local law a bad one and will myself follow the dictates of the Presbyterian Church if the question ever comes before me to decide."

"It is probable that the idea that the ministers of Washington have taken a pronounced stand against performing marriage ceremonies where one party is a divorcee, is the result of the strict law which recognizes only one ground for absolute divorce. At a meeting of the Ministerial Association the members some time ago, gave their indorsement to the law, though it was not discussed at length. Generally it was conceded to be a good one, though I, with a number of others, hold that it is too stringent in its provisions."

ADMIRAL WALKER TALKS OF CANAL

Text of the Hepburn
Resolution of Inquiry

"Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the Secretary of State be directed to furnish the House of Representatives with a statement of all the items of expenditure made by the Isthmian Canal Commission, of which Rear Admiral J. G. Walker was chairman, authorized by an act making appropriations, etc., approved March 3, 1899. "Said statement shall show all expenditures made by the said Commission or authorized to be paid, and shall particularly show all allowances for personal service, including payments made for board, rations, transportation, supplies, wages, salary and allowances of every kind, and when and by whom said sums of money, or any of them, were paid, and said statement shall particularly show all payments of every character made by the members of said Isthmian Canal Commission or inuring to the benefit of either of them."

Says Books of Commission Have Always Been Open to Those Having a Right to See Them, and That Vouchers for Expenditures Always Passed Muster.

Declares No Sons or Army or Navy Officers of Members of Congress Were Employed in the Work. Congress Failed to Provide for Printing Report.

The attack made upon the work of the Isthmian Canal Commission and the expenditures of public money they have made is looked upon by the members of the commission more as an effort on the part of those favorable to the Nicaraguan route to nullify the recommendation of the Panama route than as an attack upon the commission and its administration.

Representative Hepburn of Ohio introduced a resolution in the House just before the adjournment, calling for general information as to expenditures of the canal commission.

When seen this morning in the office of the commission in the Corcoran Building Rear Admiral Walker said to a Times representative:

"If I had not read it in the 'Congressional Record' I would not have believed that Senator Morgan ever made such a statement as that he was unable to obtain any official information as to what salaries were being paid to the members of the commission and to those in its employ. A note to the President, to the Secretary of State, to the Auditor, or Comptroller of the Treasury, or to me would have promptly brought forth the desired information."

McKinley Fixed Salaries.

"The salaries of the members of the commission were fixed by President McKinley at \$12,000 a year together with the actual and necessary expenses of travel. Large sums have necessarily been spent for travel, surveys, salaries, etc., but not a single voucher allowed by the commission has been disallowed by the higher authorities. Neither has a ruling of the commission in stopping the payment of any claim been reversed. The voucher for every expense after being carefully scrutinized in this office has gone to the Secretary of State for his approval, thence to the Auditor of the Treasury, and finally to the Comptroller of the Treasury. The total appropriations for the commission have been \$1,975,000, nearly all of which is spent."

"There is not and has never been, to my knowledge, or the knowledge of anyone in this office, in the employ of the commission the son of a single army or naval officer, a Senator or Representative, or of any person prominent in political or social life. The salaries allowed those employees of those sufficient to secure the services of those competent to do the work required of them."

Nothing to Secrete.

"A list of the employees and their salaries has never been published for the reason that no provision has ever been made for the publication of the commission's report. We have nothing to secrete, and are always prepared to furnish information on any subject connected with the commission and its work to those entitled to it."

"Regarding the relative cost of maintenance of the Panama and Nicaraguan routes as referred to by Senator Morgan the figures were never adopted by the commission and are in no manner official. The totals were used by us, but only for comparison and as the best obtainable information. These estimates of the cost of maintenance were made by Lieutenant Colonel Ernst and submitted to the commission. They were not embodied in the report, however, as it was thought they might be excessive."

"On the completion of the first report of the commission August 12, 1901, all of the members of the commission, with the exception of ex-Senator Pasco and myself were furloughed. This action was taken after consultation with the Secretary of State. We both agreed that this course was preferable to a permanent dissolution of the commission, as it might be desirable to call them together again at some future time."

MARLBOROUGH CITY DESTROYED

Falling Wall Crushes Man in Massacre.

MARLBOROUGH, Mass., Dec. 26.—Early this morning a wall of the city hall, causing alarm was rung by Michael O'Brien, member of the board of aldermen, who was buried under a pile of bricks and stones which were broken and scattered.

MRS. GRANT

The will of Mrs. Grant, this morning in Supreme Court, was read by Fred Grant, son